#### HOW THE BLIND READ

The Sense of Vision Superseded by That of Touch.

"POINT" SYSTEM OF TODAY

ed Printing-The First English Book to English Mained Letters.

he crystal gates are closed eyes of the understanding

The genius of man has been slow to with the problem of derising al methods for the successful tion of the blind.

isnifestly the first consideration in ising a scheme that will enable the o of a system of printing and that will enable them to read ite without the sense of sight-use of vision is a pre-requisite lequate conception of the na-ph relationship of our environ-It is the sense most frequently ht into requisition by the human and contributes more largely

ny other to our happiness, see study of the natural laws that the operation of the perceptive as will reveal the fact that the s of this important sense of sight sens and accelerates the mental

Bereft of the sense of vision the hu-man mind is forced to depend upon that other most important function, closely allied to it in our physiological econo-my, the sense of touch. It is a beautiful and provident dispensation of the in his affentent children should have been endowed with susceptibilities of a high order. To the person that is born blind the idea of something externol to oursalves rests almost entire ly upon the sense of touch. The seat s wrose is the cutaneous surface of the body, which consists of concentrie rows of small, conical elevations fibers torninate, and which, when deeloped to a condition of acute sensi-lity, transmit to the brain the nature of the object with which they come in contact with the certainty and velocity of the electric current. On the palmer surface of the hand, particularly at the tips of the lingers, these papillae are more necessitive than at any other point on the surface of the body, except at the tip of the longue.

the tip of the tongue.

It was a natural sequence of these facts that the earliest efforts of the educates of the blind were directed toward the invention of a system of raised, or embosed, letters, that would enable the blind to read easily and quickly by the sense of touch.

The earliest recorded instances of reading by the sense of touch are found in the history of some South American tribes who read by a system of strings tied with numerous knots of different spee and at various distances apart, all of which had some alphabetical significance. When the Span fards invaded Peru they found these masses of woolen strings and knots secarely stored away in substantially-

Instructors of the blind who have made a study of the advancement made in systems of printing and writing are pretty generally united in according to the French people the honor of being foremost in the work of embosed The Ingenious French had aght this art to a remarkable degree of perfection almost a half cen-tury before work of this kind was done in Engiand and at least a quarter of a century before any was done in Ger-The French schools for the blind are the oldest and among the best in the world.

The growth and gradual perfection of a successful system of embossed printing and writing precipitated a sever-ending contractorsy in regard to the relative merits of various alphabets. Naturally the first thought was to construct a series of raised letters that should be similar in form to the letters of the English alphabet but with certain modifications that should simplify them and adapt them more readily to the sense of touch.

A briefreference to a few of the more important efforts in the line of em-

bonnel alphabets will suffice for the purposes of this paper. The honor of doing the first embossed printing is usually ascribed to Valentine Haney. Launder of the first school for the blind

#### abedagghtjhlano

#### pqrstueryr

to the world at Paris, in 1874. The sinte of his successful work in embossed printing is that of 1794. For the prints of emboased characters he had made a unmber of wooden types which he looked in a wooden frame and from which he printed a small work entitled Essal sur l'ofucation des Avengles. The publication of the book excited much wonder and interest, and it was

and German. The strie of type used by Haney was Roman Italia. The distinction of having printed the first book in English raised letters is generally accordited to Mr. James Gall, of Edinburg, who performed this foat in 1807. Mr. Gall had seen speelmeter of printing in French and Ger- by F. J. Wu man, and being a brantical publisher | Monroe street.

subsequently translated into English

VWXYZ

in what was once a popular system in this country, the "Boston type." In the invention of this type Mr. Howe ig-nored capital letters and devised a sys-tem of slightly modified lower case

nearly all the leading institutions of the world, the "point system" having superseded it because of its more per-fect adaptation to the sense of touch and by reason of its easy adjustability to all forms of writing, including nu-sical notation and the expression of sical notation and the expression of mathematical calculations. There are two forms of "point" systems now in general use, the "Braille" and the "New York point." Between the ad-vocates of these systems there has been constant and at times bitter contention. It is not the purpose of this paper to enter into this controversy or paper to enter into this controversy or to discuss in any way the relative merits of the two systems. Suffice it to say that there appears at this time to be a preponderance of "evidence" in favor of the Braille system, although it is a fact that for the past twelve years most of the embossed printing done in this country has been done by the American printing house for the blind, at Louisville, which receives an annual subsidy of \$10,000 from congress and which uses the "New York point." It is a fact, however, that a large proportion of the educators of large proportion of the educators of the blind in our leading state institu-tions express a decided preference for the Braille and emphasize their prefer-ence by teaching it almost exclusively. Nevertheless it must be candidly ad-mitted that the "New York point" has many enthusiastic adherents who cling to it with a tenacity born of the con-viction that it is the more practical

To enable those who read by the sense of sight to form their own ideas of the relative merits of the two systems I give below the alphabet used for general literary work by each sys-

: " " . P - B - L - . . .

7 7 9 F F F F F

aystem, however. Charles Harbier, an officer in the French army, devised the first point system. The cell, as we term it, contained twelve points, in two rows of six each. The letters being six dors long, the finger could not cover them all at a single touch. No practical uses was ever made of the practical use was ever made of the system, but it gave the talented Braille the idea upon which he founded the system that bears his name, and through which so much has been done for the advancement of the blind. TRUMAN A. DE WEESE.

The pleasant effect and perfect safety with which ladies may use the California liquid laxative, Syrup of Figs, under all conditions, makes it their favorite remedy. To get the true and genuine article, look for the name of the California Fig Syrup company, printed near the bottom of the package.

Dr. M. J. Davis is a prominent physician of Lewis, Case county, Iowa, and has been actively engaged in the practice of medicine at that place for the past thirty five years. On the 25th of May, while in Des Moines en route to Chicago, he was suddenly taken with an attack of diarrhose. Having sold Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhose Remedy for the past seventeen years, and knowing its reliability, he procured a 25 cent bottle, two doses of which completely cured him. The excitement and change of water and diet incident to traveling often produce a diarrhose. Every one should procure a bottle of this remedy before leaving home. For sale by F. J. Wuraburg, druggist, No. 58 Monroe street.

Fifty cents is a small doctor bill, but that is all it will cost you to cure any ordinary case of rheumatism if you use Chamberlain's Pain Baim. Try it and you will be surprised at the prompt relief it affects. The first application will quiet the pain. 50 cent buttles for sale

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#### laconets.

Thirty pieces Jaconet, a very fine printed fabric and very desirable for warm weather wear, we display especially this week at the price of

25c yard

#### Very stylish. Printed Silks.

Fifty pieces of our best quality Printed Silks, worth \$1.25 per yard, to make a special attraction we will run them out this week at

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Twenty pieces of Figured, Dotted and Printed Mulls at

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All excellent quality.

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Fifty-eight dozen fine Bleached Damask and Hem Stitched Huck Towels, elegant quality, genuine value 50c, price for the week

### 25c each

This bargain is worthy the attention of all, and early inspection is

#### Umbrellas.

Our supply of these is unequalled in this section. We offer some specials for this week. 500 good quality Sun Umbrellas at

> \$1.25 each Strictly worth \$2; all good handles

and well made. Fifty fine navy blue Sun Umbrellas at

\$250 each

Very cheap at this price, as the quality is superior.

#### Parasols.

One hundred Ladies' fancy, elegant Parasols, in one lot, will be offered this week at the uniform price of

\$3.00 each

All well worth \$5 each. Natural wood, gold, silver and celluloid

### Glove Dep't.

Ten dozen White Wash Gloves at

ANDTE TON TON EDMETON ENTEROR ETM

75c pair

These can be washed with the least of trouble.

A complete line of Silk Mitts at our popular prices.

#### Ladies' Waists

In great demand and we have all styles and are doing a large trade in them. Complete range in prices.

#### Suits.

Special offering in Ladies' Navy Blue Suits, elegant garments, worth \$6, we will reduce the price for a few days to

\$3.48 the Suit

### Millinery

Offers many attractive things this week. Among them are light and airy styles for the warm weather. A large assortment of Broad Brimmed Sailors.

#### Embroideries.

We will make a special offering this week of 41/2 yard lengths-a very large lot at the prices,

48, 58, 68, 88c

Which is about half the value of these. We expect this very marked reduction to move this large lot rapidly.

#### Shoes.

We make some very attractive offerings in this line and we have two nice ones for this week, consisting of

LOT ONE-250 pairs Ladies' Vici Kid Button Shoes,

These were \$4 and are excellent Shoes. Do not delay. LOT TWO-200 pairs of Ladies' Oxford Ties for

\$2.50 pair

Former price \$3.50. Good fitting and cool.

## Hosiery.

Fifty dozen Ladies' and Children's Ribbed Hose, 15c; worth 25c. Ten dozen Ladies' White Silk Pleated Hose, 75c a pair; worth \$1. Fifteen dozen Ladies' Mace Top Hose, with black boots, 25c; worth 37 1/c.

## Underwear.

Genuine Reductions in Ladies' French Balbriggan Underwear, all sizes, worth \$1.25.

Gents' real French Balbriggan Shirts and Drawers, 75c; cheap at \$1.25.

## Outing Shirts.

Full line Gents' Outing Shirts, elegant quality, at \$1.50; worth \$2.50 each. Full line Gents' Neckwear at all prices.

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THE BOSTON STORE.